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LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the New Zealand Minister of External Relations and Trade concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) T. C. O'BRIEN
Permanent Representative

Annex

STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TRADE, RT. HON. DON McKINNON

Thursday, 28 May 1992

New Zealand strongly condemns the continued aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina. Along with other nations, we call for an immediate end to hostilities. New Zealand's position is clear: we support the European Community in its peacemaking role, and the United Nations in its peace-keeping role.

There have been serious tensions between the different ethnic communities for some time in what was formerly known as Yugoslavia. The Belgrade government, however, must take much of the responsibility for the present bloodshed.

Our Government has already made its views on the Bosnia-Herzegovina situation clear to Belgrade through the Yugoslav Chargé d'affaires in Wellington. We have also recognized Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as independent States. In addition, last year we joined a United Nations arms embargo on Yugoslavia, and four New Zealand Defence Force officers are currently participating as military observers in the United Nations peace-keeping operation.

After the recent atrocities in Sarajevo, we are taking further steps. I have instructed my officials to convey our condemnation of aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Yugoslav Chargé d'affaires in Wellington, Luka Mestrovic. The Chargé will also be told that our Government does not accept the "continuing state" claim of the new Federal Republic constituted by Serbia and Montenegro. For example, it is not our view that Serbia and Montenegro can claim automatic entitlement to the Yugoslav seat in the United Nations. I expect the Chargé to transmit those messages to Belgrade.

There are growing international calls to impose trade and other sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro. The United Nations Security Council is addressing this issue. New Zealand will support any additional measures agreed by the Security Council. Our foreign policy commitment is to keep in step with the United Nations and the European Community on this issue.